



# Firework

by Katy Perry

## Figurative Language & Poetic Devices Activity

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# Song Lyrics & Poetry

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify, label, and explain** the type of figurative language or poetic device used in the song lyrics. Examples may include: imagery devices such as metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole; sound devices such as alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia, rhyme; and rhetorical devices such as anaphora and epistrophe.

"Firework" by Katy Perry Identify & Label the Poetic Devices	Explain the Poetic Devices Used
1 Do you ever feel like a plastic bag 2 Drifting through the wind 3 Wanting to start again	
4 Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin 5 Like a house of cards 6 One blow from caving in	
7 Do you ever feel already buried deep 8 Six feet under scream 9 But no one seems to hear a thing	
10 Do you know that there's still a chance for you 11 'Cause there's a spark in you 12 You just gotta ignite the light 13 And let it shine 14 Just own the night 15 Like the Fourth of July	
<b>(Chorus)</b> 16 Cause baby you're a firework 17 Come on show 'em what you're worth 18 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 19 As you shoot across the sky 20 Baby you're a firework 21 Come on let your colors burst 22 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 23 You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down	
24 You don't have to feel like a waste of space 25 You're original, cannot be replaced 26 If you only knew what the future holds 27 After a hurricane comes a rainbow	
28 Maybe you're the reason why all the doors are closed 29 So you can open one that leads you to the perfect road 30 Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow 31 And when it's time, you'll know 32 You just gotta ignite the light 33 And let it shine 34 Just own the night 35 Like the Fourth of July <b>(Repeat Chorus)</b>	
36 Boom, boom, boom 37 Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon 38 It's always been inside of you, you, you 39 And now it's time to let it through	

**TEACHER'S GUIDE**

"Firework" by Katy Perry Identify & Label the Poetic Devices	Explain the Poetic Device Used
1 Do you ever feel like a plastic bag 2 Drifting through the wind 3 Wanting to start again	Do <u>you ever</u> feel like a plastic bag (simile: <u>you=bag</u> ) Drifting through the <u>w</u> ind <u>W</u> anting to start again (alliteration: <u>w</u> ind, <u>w</u> anting)
4 Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin 5 Like a house of cards 6 One blow from caving in	Do <u>you ever</u> feel, feel so paper <u>thin</u> (simile: <u>you=paper/house of cards</u> ) Like a house of cards One blow from caving <u>in</u> (true rhyme: <u>thin=in</u> ) (hyperbole: <u>you caving in</u> )
7 Do you ever feel already buried deep 8 Six feet under scream 9 But no one seems to hear a thing	Do <u>you ever</u> feel already buried deep <u>S</u> ix feet under <u>s</u> cream But no one <u>s</u> eems to hear a thing (anaphora: <u>Do you ever</u> ) (alliteration: <u>S</u> ix, <u>s</u> cream, <u>s</u> eems)
10 Do you know that there's still a chance for you 11 'Cause there's a spark in you 12 You just gotta ignite the light 13 And let it shine 14 Just own the night 15 Like the Fourth of July	Do you know that there's still a chance for you 'Cause there's a spark in you You just gotta <u>ignite the light</u> (internal rhyme: <u>ignite, light</u> ) And let it shine Just <u>own</u> the <u>night</u> (true rhyme: <u>light=night</u> ) (simile: <u>you (you is implied)=Fourth of July</u> ) (personification: implied that Fourth of July owns the night)
<b>(Chorus)</b> 16 Cause baby you're a firework 17 Come on show 'em what you're worth 18 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 19 As you shoot across the sky 20 Baby you're a firework 21 Come on let your colors burst 22 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 23 You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down	Cause baby <u>you're a firework</u> (metaphor: <u>you're a firework</u> ) Come on show 'em <u>what</u> you're <u>worth</u> (alliteration: <u>work, what, worth</u> ) (assonance: <u>work, worth</u> ) Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" (onomatopoeia: <u>oh, oh, oh</u> ) As you shoot across the sky (hyperbole: <u>you shoot across the sky</u> ) Baby you're a firework <u>C</u> ome on let your <u>c</u> olors burst (alliteration: <u>Come, colors</u> ) Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down
24 You don't have to feel like a waste of space 25 You're original, cannot be replaced 26 If you only knew what the future holds 27 After a hurricane comes a rainbow	You don't have to feel like a waste of space (simile: <u>you=waste of space</u> ) You're original, cannot be replaced If you only knew <u>what the future holds</u> (personification: <u>future holds</u> ) After a hurricane comes a rainbow (irony: <u>hurricane/rainbow</u> )

**Continued**

"Firework" by Katy Perry Identify & Label the Poetic Devices	Explain the Poetic Device Used
28 Maybe you're the reason why all the doors are closed 29 So you can open one that leads you to the perfect road 30 Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow 31 And when it's time, you'll know 32 You just gotta ignite the light 33 And let it shine 34 Just own the night 35 Like the Fourth of July <b>(Repeat Chorus)</b>	Maybe you're the reason why all the doors are <u>closed</u> So you can open one that <u>leads you</u> to the perfect <u>road</u> <b>(personification: door leads you - door is implied with the word "one")</b> <b>(assonance: closed, road)</b> Like a lightning bolt, your <u>heart will blow</u> <b>(hyperbole: heart will blow; personification: heart will blow)</b> And when it's time, you'll <u>know</u> <b>(true rhyme: blow=know)</b> You just gotta ignite the light And let it shine Just own the night Like the Fourth of July <b>(true rhyme: light=night)</b>
36 Boom, boom, boom 37 Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon 38 It's always been inside of you, you, you 39 And now it's time to let it through	<b>Boom, boom, boom</b> <b>(onomatopoeia: boom, boom, boom)</b> Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon It's always been inside of you, you, <b>you</b> And now it's time to let it <b>through</b> <b>(true rhyme: you=through)</b>

*You and your students may find more examples. These are just a few. The repetition of words in lines 36-38 can be an example of epistrophe; the chorus being repeated is also an example of epistrophe.*

*Some words are not spoken, but implied from previous lines. For example, in lines 5-6 "you" is still being implied from line 4 in the comparison of "you" being "like a house of cards/One blow from caving in."*

**ADVANCED:** The first three lines may be an allusion to the 1999 movie "American Beauty" and the iconic image of the plastic bag dancing in the wind, giving it a deeper metaphor (see [this article by Alan Ball](#) from Slate.com).

Although, if you want to look at it in a *cynical* way, maybe the "house of cards" in line 5 is an allusion to [The Brady Bunch episode](#) where Tiger, the dog, knocks down the cards in the boys vs. girls contest. ;]

Song lyrics from <http://katy-perry.com/2010/10/08/firework-lyrics-video/> (Play the audio in class while they work.)

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